

"Whereas, beginning in the period 2002–2005, there may be an increasing gap between supply and demand for natural gas in the Pacific Rim; and

"Whereas market and economic studies indicate favorable conditions for the sale of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to these Pacific Rim markets; and

"Whereas major permits for a pipeline route from the North Slope to Valdez have been completed; and

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"and be it further

"Resolved, That the State of Alaska respectfully requests the President of the United States to demonstrate national support for an ANS gas transmission project to Asian LNG buyers; and be it further

"Resolved, That the Governor is respectfully requested to

"(1) assure the Asian LNG buyers that the state will provide continuity and stability in regards to North Slope natural gas supply, tax structure, and regulatory policy;

"(2) continue support of the Joint Pipeline Office, which administers an innovative, efficient, and cost-effective permitting system;

"(3) encourage the private developers of the gas pipeline and the state's labor forces to develop an Alaska hire agreement for the ANS gas transmission project; and

"(4) meet with all parties to determine how the state can help facilitate the ANS gas transmission pipeline; and be it further

"Resolved, That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alaska State Legislature, appoint an interim working group to track progress and assist the transportation permit holder, the working interest owners of the Prudhoe Bay and Point Thompson units, and the administration in developing a unified proposal for presentation to the Asian market; the legislative interim working group shall report on the status of the project and any proposed legislative actions to the Resources Committees of the Alaska House of Representatives and Alaska Senate by February 1, 1997; and be it further

"Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the construction of an ANS gas transmission pipeline and offers its assistance to the parties involved in order to speed completion of an ANS gas transmission project."

POM-630. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 266.

"A concurrent resolution to make an urgent request to the Congress of the United States to release to the states, including Michigan, all federal road funding due under the gas tax formula.

"Whereas, The quality of Michigan roadways has a great deal to do with the state's competitiveness in attracting and retaining jobs for our citizens. Every individual and every business in Michigan is affected when Michigan roads suffer from insufficient maintenance. Finding the means to meet this financial challenge is of the utmost importance to both state and local policymakers as we prepare for the twenty-first century; and

"Whereas, The difficult task of providing excellence in transportation in Michigan is made far worse by some of the current practices of the federal government with regard to the allocation of money raised by the federal gas tax; and

"Whereas, The current practices of the federal government with regards to the allocation of dollars raised by the federal tax made it difficult for Michigan to improve and ex-

pand its transportation system. Of the states required to send money to the federal government, in accordance with the federal funding formula, Michigan sends significantly more money to Washington than it receives back. In 1993, for example, Michigan paid a total of \$733.7 million to the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and only \$520.1 million was returned; and

"Whereas, In addition, even more money designated for return to Michigan, and several other states, is being withheld by federal transportation authorities. This money is critical to our transportation infrastructure and a vital component of the state's economic well-being.

"Whereas, The current budget debate offers an opportunity to reexamine this critical aspect of public spending. This examination should include immediately correcting the gross inequities in allocating the funds generated by the federal gas tax; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That we respectfully, but urgently, ask the Congress of the United States to release to the states, including Michigan, any federal road funding due under the gas tax formula but currently being held back by the federal government; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker, of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Michigan congressional delegation with the request that each member review this issue, offering a formal response to this body, the Michigan State Senate."

POM-631. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Finance.

"SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 96-11

"Whereas, Encouraging the private provision of health care coverage is a laudable and legitimate governmental objective; and

"Whereas, The provision of health care insurance or other health care coverage assists in mitigating the impacts of providing uncompensated health care on the health care system; and

"Whereas, Tax benefits associated with the payment of health care insurance premiums and the costs of funding other methods of covering health care costs should be fair and equitable regardless of the method used; and

"Whereas, Individuals and employees should be encouraged and have the freedom to choose the method by which they provide for the expenses of the health care they receive; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate of the Sixtieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein: That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, are desirous of federal legislation that affords equal tax treatment for the costs of health care insurance purchased by employers, by employees and individuals who are self-employed, and by individuals who are not self-employed; be it further

"Resolved, That we support federal legislation that affords equal tax treatment for the management of health care costs through the use of medical savings accounts; be it further

"Resolved, That we call for the United States Congress to establish a plan for tax equity in the treatment of contributions, expenses and costs associated with employer-based health care insurance, individually-paid health care insurance, health care not covered by Medicare, and the use of individual medical savings accounts; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United

States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and to each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1996" (Rept. No. 104-289).

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1802. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property containing a fish and wildlife facility to the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-290).

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1871. A bill to expand the Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-291).

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 1772. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain interests in the Waihee Marsh for inclusion in the Oahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

H.R. 2660. A bill to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 2679. A bill to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 2982. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Carbon Hill National Fish Hatchery to the State of Alabama.

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1784. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HEFLIN:

S. 1902. A bill to provide for the establishment of National Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr.

ASHCROFT, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. COATS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SIMON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KYL, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. ROBB):

S. 1903. A bill to designate the bridge, estimated to be completed in the year 2000, that replaces the bridge on Missouri highway 74 spanning from East Girardeau, Illinois, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge", and for other purposes; considered and passed.